Transfer of water from Krishna to Pennar Basin

1488. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan with Government to solve the chronic water problem of drought prone area by transferring water from surplus river basin to deficit ones;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to transfer water from Krishna to Pennar basin to meet the water needs of Rayalaseema area in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details of the proposal and when Government propose to initiate the works of the project?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) and (b) In 1980, the Ministry of Water Resources, then known as the Ministry of Irrigation, formulated a National Perspective Plan for water resources development which envisages inter linkages among Peninsular Rivers and Himalayan Rivers for transferring water from water surplus basins to water deficit areas for optimum utilisation of water resources. The Government of India has established the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) in 1982 as an autonomous society to carryout water balance and other studies and prepare feasibility reports. NWDA has identified 30 links under the National Perspective for preparation of the feasibility reports and has completed feasibility reports of 6 links under Peninsular Component. It is programmed to complete feasibility reports of all the identified water transfer link schemes under the Peninsular Component by the year 2004 and those under the Himalayan Component by the year 2008.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As per the pre-feasibility report of the Krishna (Almatti)-Pennar link project, Kurnool and Anantapur districts of Rayalaseema Region of Andhra Pradesh, will get irrigation benefits from the link. The feasibility report of the link is planned for completion by the year 2003. The implementation of this link scheme is dependent on implementation of Mahanadi—Godavari — Krishna — Pennar part of Peninsular Component

of the National Perspective Plan which would only be possible if the concerned co-basin states agree to the water linkage proposal and provide other logistical support necessary for project implementation.

On-Farm Development Works

1489. SHRI RAMACHADRA KHUNTIA:
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce ten per cent minimum mandatory charges for On-Farm Development (OFD) works;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of States who have agreed to the proposal; and

(c) the fresh steps taken to provide sound legal backing and organizational frame-work for Participatory Irrigation Management?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) to (c) Deriving from the recommendations of the Working Group of the Planning Commission on 'Private Sector and beneficiary participation' and the suggestions of the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Water Resources has proposed to introduce an element of contribution to the extent of 10% by the beneficiary farmers for components such as field channels, reclamation of water logged areas and renovation/desilting of Minor Irrigation Tanks during the Xth Plan. Involvement of beneficiaries through such contribution would encourage a sense of ownership in the assets created. The States, however, expressed that the proposed 10% beneficiary contribution could be in the form of labour rather than cash. The names of the States which are in favour of beneficiary contribution are Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana (favoured 5% beneficiary contribution), Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh. The Ministry of Water Resources had circulated a Model Act of the States, which provides legal and organizational framework for Participatory Irrigation Management. The States are being persuaded from time to time to amend their Irrigation Acts accordingly.